



The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Transfiguration Sunday

11 February 2024, 10am



PRELUDE

Impromptu no 4 in A Flat Op. 90

Franz Schubert

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #12** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

ST. DENIO

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: You are with us, God of sunrises:

**ALL: you awaken us with each bright new day,
overflowing with promise.**

You are with us, Inviting God:

**calling us to respond to all the chances
to share the spirit of grace and hope.**

You are with us, Glory of God:

**gathering us into the presence of your peace,
listening to the deep sighs of our hearts.**

RESPONSE IN SONG “We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground, and I know that there are
an-gels all a-round. Let us praise Je-sus now;
we are stand-ing in God's pres-ence on ho-ly ground.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We can become so burned out by our hectic days that we lose sight of the One who gives us life. We can become so impatient waiting for God to astound us with wonders, that we overlook the pleasures of today. In these quiet moments, away from all those things which distract us, let us bring our brokenness to the One who listens to our hearts, and heals our souls. Join me, as we pray, saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**The radiance of your grace is poured out in every moment,
Shaper of mountaintops,**

but often we dull its luster by living in the shadows.

We watch shows which claim to be ‘real,’

**but we have trouble simply sitting in your
transforming presence, in your healing silence.**

**We can long so deeply for you to repair the world,
we overlook the holiness of our next conversation.**

Revealer of mystery, forgive us.

In silence, may we hear your whispers of grace.

In mercy, may we feel your forgiveness

lifting the burden of guilt from us.

In trust, may we recommit to serve your creation,

filling it with the light of love’s own self,

the servant of all, Jesus Christ.

(We pray in silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The promise is true — God's Light has come into the world, and into our lives. We are graced with glimpses of God's glory, even as we are filled with mercy and forgiveness.

Here we find the peace and quiet we need;

here God’s forgiveness sets us free from all that keeps us from serving;

here God gives mercy and hope;

here we sing praise to our God. Amen.

RESPONSE IN SONG

“Holy Ground”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 50:1-6

ONE: The Mighty One, God,
The Ruler of Creation, speaks,

**ALL: And summons the earth,
From the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Out of the abode of holiness,
And the perfection of beauty,

God shines forth.

Our God comes forth

And does not keep silence,

Devouring fire advances before the Most High,

With a mighty tempest all around.

The Holy One calls to the heavens above and to the earth,

That God may judge the people:

“Gather to Me My faithful ones,

Who made a covenant with Me, confirmed by sacrifice!”

**The heavens declare God's faithfulness and power;
God is judge.**

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

✕ **HYMN #662**

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”
All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.

RATISBON

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

*Offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including checks with “Light of Service” or “LOS” in the memo line) will be given to an organization doing compassionate work that complements our church’s mission. This week, we share our gifts with the **Salisbury Housing Trust** and the **Salisbury Housing Committee**.*

ONE: God has poured gifts into our lives; we now return our tithes and offerings.

**ALL: Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise,
and offer them to God’s purposes.**

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

Our church welcomes every size gift, and thanks you for your generosity.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Song of the Transfiguration

David Haas

Transform us as you, transfigured,
Stood a part on Tabor's height.
Lead us up our sacred mountains,
Search us with revealing light.
Lift us from where we have fallen,
Full of questions, filled with fright.

Transform us as you, transfigured,
Once spoke with those holy ones.
We, surrounded by the witness
Of those saints whose work is done,
Live in this world as your Body,
Chosen daughters, chosen sons.

Transform us as you, transfigured,
Would not stay within a shrine.
Keep us from our great temptation
Time and truth we quickly bind.
Lead us down those daily pathways
Where our love is not confined.

✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit ever more;
One God of grace, whom we adore! Amen.**

✠ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We could remember the giants of the past, or serve the little ones of today; we could build grand facilities, or restore neighbors; we could stay on mountaintops, or go into the valleys of loneliness with our arms full of grace. May our lives and gifts we offer be used in your work of *shalom*, we pray in Jesus' name: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

*Testament, p.
New Testament, p.*

SERMON

“Seeing the Light”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN #666

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Verset de Procession sur l'Adoro Te (2nd Verset)

Leon Boëllmann



Welcome to Church!

Gathered in 1744, the Congregational Church of Salisbury is an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ. It is also a welcoming home to people from a great variety of church backgrounds and life experiences. Your presence is a gift to us! We hope you will feel God's Spirit here today through our worship and fellowship.

We seek to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and love our neighbors as ourselves.

*This Church is **Open** to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical and mental ability or sexual orientation. We **Affirm** each individual as a child of God, celebrating the total identity of each person.*

*As an **Open and Affirming** Congregation, we commit to work toward ending ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice, and discrimination against any person.*

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

If you are visiting us, Welcome! Please sign our guest book and introduce yourself to our Pastor or to one of the Deacons. Fill out a welcome card in the pew to join our email list. Assistive Listening Devices are available; please ask an usher for assistance.

Kindly set phones to silent (unless you're expecting a call from Jesus).

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740

MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON

7.7.7.7.7

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright 666

1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -
 2 Come, Ho - ly Sun of heaven - ly love, rain down your
 3 O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with thoughts as
 4 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing morn, your im - age

ter - nal bring - ing light; O Light of Light, light's
 ra - diance from a - bove, and to our in - ward
 clear as morn - ing's ray, with faith like noon - tide
 to our heart is born; O may we ev - er

liv - ing spring, true Day, all days il - lu - min - ing;
 hearts con - vey the Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less ray.
 shin - ing bright, our souls un - shad - owed by the night.
 clear - ly view our Sav - ior and our God in you.

This morning hymn is based on a Latin text attributed to a 4th-century bishop. It weaves various images of Christ as Light with light-based descriptions of each day's passing. It is set to a dance-like tune from at least the 15th century that enhances the energy in the text.

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Kathy Mera, Sarah Morrison
Reader: Jeanette Weber • *Deacon:* Janet Kaufman
Fellowship time hosts: Emily Elliot and Hannah Jung

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2023 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com); used by permission.

Psalm adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.

Our Ministry Team

Ministers: All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

Worship & Music

Music Director: David Baranowski
Bell Choir Director: Mary Davidson
Cantor: Jennifer Oberto

Faith Formation

Sunday School Coordinator: Holly Tierney
Youth Group Leader: Sarah Lesch
Youth Group Assistant: Dan Baker

Holding the Parts Together

Church Administrator: Jennifer Oberto
Sexton: Richard Tietjen

Church Officers: Betsy Beck, *moderator*;
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

Occasions for Service, Witness, and Prayer

IN OUR PRAYERS:

We gladly list joys and concerns, and typically print them for four weeks after they are offered in worship. (Prayer requests may be renewed at any time.)

New concerns

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries:

Join our mission partners, Council of Churches in Sierra Leone in prayer: "... for the nation of Sierra Leone as the people go through anxious times associated with the tension that emerged from elections conducted in 2023, followed by an alleged attempted coup d'état and the subsequent ongoing judicial processes.

"We pray for justice, peace, unity, and prosperity in the nation of Sierra Leone, dear God: the peace that is derived from you and flows from justice,

truth, and freedom. We pray for our President, the Cabinet, the Parliament, and the Judiciary that they may govern the nation justly and in righteousness.
Amen.

Debbie Prescott

Continuing concerns

Lester Hoysradt, now in hospice care.

Peace in Israel/Palestine, Armenia/Azerbaijan, Sudan, Ukraine

Margaret Haubrich, in memory care • Neighbors around the world recovering from catastrophic

wildfires, floods, and hurricanes • all affected by gun violence, especially survivors, those tending to the traumatized, and those advocating for safety • neighbors who serve or live in war or in conflict zones around the world • for peacemakers.

For those in treatment for cancer — Peter (and Janet) • Deborah Lifton, Peter Kiernan, Jenny, David Douyea, Deborah Merwin — prayers for healing and strength.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT, please call the church office (860-435-2442) or email Pastor John (jnelson@salisburyucc.org). Sometimes we don't find out about an injury or illness or other need until long after — so please call!

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

10AM **Worship**
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*

11:30AM Music Committee

2:30PM Youth Group

MONDAY, 12 FEBRUARY

9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY

5:15PM Handbell Choir rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

12:30PM Staff Meeting

2:30pm Board of Deacons

4PM Women's Bible Study

5:30PM **Ash Wednesday worship**

THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY

5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 16 FEBRUARY

8:45AM Men's Bible Study



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

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Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm, Monday-Friday